Foodgrains affected by Green Leaf Hoppers

*177. SHRI C. HARIDAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the rice crop has been affected badly by Green Leaf Hoppers;

(b) if so, which are the areas where the crop has been affected and the quantity of foodgrains lost on that account; and

(c) whether Government have taken measures including research work to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) and (b) Government are aware that incidence of Green Leaf Hoppers occurred on rice crop during Kharif season in certain parts of the country. Incidence of Green Leaf Hoppers on rice crop was detected by joint surveillance and monitoring teams of the Central and State Governments in isolated pockets of some districts of Bihar, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka. The intensity of pest infestation remained generally low. No significant damage has been reported to the crops.

(c) The Government have taken the following measures to contain this pest:

(i) Regular pest surveillance and monitoring are carried out to forewarn the farmers about pest development.

(ii) Timely pest control campaigns with the use of prescribed pesticides which can achieve a mortality rate of minimum of 85 per cent are organised by State Governments and farmers.

(iii) Adequate and timely availability of pesticides is arranged.

(iv) Financial assistance to the farmers are made available under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Control and Eradication of Pests and Diseases of Agricultural Importance including Weed Control in Endemic Areas.

(v) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research and various Agricultural Universities are engaged in research work to evolve resistant varieties and other non-chemical and ecologically safer methods for control of pests and diseases of rice.

Weeding out of inefficient and corrupt officers

*178. SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has any proposal to weed out inefficient and corrupt officers, if so, what are the names of the officers removed so far and what is the number of the officers against whom action is proposed to be taken; and

(b) what is the number of vigilance enquiries conducted during the last two years against the officers and the details of action taken against them in each case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V. N. GADGIL): (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The conduct and performance of officials working in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting are reviewed from time to time and suitable action, including pre-mature retire-